

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 76 (Cancelled)

77. (New) A computer-based text processor and display system for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of text written in a standard writing system of a human language, wherein:

processor means is provided that is adapted to generate a plurality of processed texts from a common sample of text which is written in the standard writing system, such that each of said processed texts comprises word-shapes that correspond in sequence with the word-shapes of the sample,

at least one word-shape in each processed text is altered in appearance with respect to the corresponding word-shape in the sample by the incorporation of additional visual clues as to the identity of said word-shape,

said visual clues are selected from at least one of phonetic, pictographic and logographic markers,

said processed texts differ from one another by the amount of said visual clues incorporated therein,

display means is provided that is adapted to visually display to the user the sample in the standard writing system and any of said processed texts, and

user operable selector means is provided that is adapted to provide user control of said display means to allow selective display of the sample and any one of said processed texts.

78. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 77 wherein:

the standard form of the written human language of the sample is alphabetical,

the word-shapes of the sample are formed by sequences of alphabetical letters ordered in accordance with a standard spelling system of the natural human language, and

said visual clues are phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of word-shapes in the sample.

79. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 78, wherein:

the system includes an electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-base in which word-shapes of the language of the sample are correlated with groups of phonetic markers that indicate pronunciation of respective word-shapes in said data-base, and

said processor means is adapted to generate at least one of said processed texts by identifying the word-shapes of the sample in said data-base and incorporating in the word-shapes of said processed texts a selection of said groups of phonetic markers from the data-base that are respectively correlated in the data-base with the identified word-shapes of the sample, to thereby generate at least one of said processed texts.

80. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 78, wherein:

the system includes an electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-base in which word-shapes of the language of the sample are correlated with groups of phonetic markers that indicate the pronunciation of respective word-shapes in said data-base,

said processor means is adapted to look-up the word-shapes of the sample in said data-base and to generate an enriched text comprising word-shapes that correspond in sequence with the word-shapes of the sample and which incorporate in the word-shapes of said enriched text all the groups of phonetic markers from the data-base that are respectively correlated with word-shapes in the enriched text and that are indicative of the pronunciation of the corresponding word-shapes in the sample, and

said processor means includes converter means adapted to convert said enriched text into each of said processed texts in such a way that each respective processed text incorporates a different number of the phonetic markers incorporated in said enriched text.

81. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 80 wherein:

said processor means operates to substantially preserve the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample within at least one of said processed texts.

82. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 79 wherein:

said converter means is operable to substantially preserve within each of said processed texts as displayed the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample while varying the visual appearance of the letters of the word-shapes so as to incorporate a different selection of said phonetic markers in respectively different ones of said processed texts.

83. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 78, wherein:

said processed texts substantially preserve the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample

the phonetic markers included in each of said processed texts comprise variants of the letters within the word-shapes of said processed texts, said variants being selected from the following categories of variants:

- letter font,
- letter colour,
- letter shape, including slant, orientation and rotation,
- type and quality of lines making letters,
- use of serifs,
- hollow-print letters shown in outline only,
- solid-filled letters,
- diacritical marks,
- visual pulsing and flashing letters.

84. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 80, wherein:

said enriched text substantially preserves the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample

the phonetic markers included in at least one of the set comprising said enriched text and said processed texts comprise variants of the letters of word-shapes in the sample, said variants being selected from among the following categories:

- letter font,
- letter colour,
- letter shape, including slant, orientation and rotation,
- type and quality of lines making letters,
- use of serifs,
- hollow-print letters shown in outline only,
- solid-filled letters,
- diacritical marks,
- visual pulsing and flashing letters.

85. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 77, wherein:

said visual clues incorporated in at least one of said processed texts employs at least one of the following: a different spelling system and different letters to that used by the standard writing system of the language,

at least one other of said processed texts substantially preserves the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample and the standard writing system of the language, and

the visual clues incorporated within at least one other of said processed texts comprise visual variants of the letters of the word-shapes of the sample.

86. (New) A text processor according to claim 80 wherein:

a homonym filter is provided that is adapted to identify and tag word-shapes that are distinct in the standard writing system but that become indistinguishable from at least one other word-shape incorporating phonetic markers in at least one of a set of texts comprising said processed texts and said enriched text, each tagged word-shape thus identifying a

reconversion homonym and also indicating which word-shape in the sample corresponds to a respective tagged word-shape in said set of texts,

re-converter means is provided that is adapted, upon user selection, to re-convert a selected one of said set of texts into a re-converted sample text written in the standard writing system by using said tagged word-shapes to resolve homonym ambiguity in said selected one of said set of texts, and said re-converter means thereby permitting the user to convert said selected one of said set of texts into said re-converted sample in the standard writing system, and

said user operable selector means is adapted to display said re-converted sample.

87. (New) A text processor according to claim 80 wherein:

a plurality of said electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-bases are provided, each of which plurality corresponds to a different spoken dialect of the natural human language,

user-operable dialect selection means is provided that is operable to select one of said plurality of pronouncing-dictionary data-bases for reference by said processor, the dialect of said selected data-base corresponding to the dialect selected by the dialect selection means.

88. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 80 in which the sample is coherent and of sufficient length to allow the probable pronunciation of non-homophonous homonyms therein to be determined, wherein:

said processor means includes a non-homophonous homonym filter adapted to identify word-shapes in said sample that are non-homophonous homonyms, and

said processor means includes a non-homophonous homonym resolver adapted to refer to said data-base and find said identified word-shapes of the sample, determine using a context-based algorithm the probable pronunciation of each occurrence of each of said identified word-shapes and, thus, the group of phonetic markers in said data-base corresponding to the determined probable pronunciation of each occurrence of said word-shapes in the sample that are identified as non-homophonous homonyms, and

said processor means is adapted to incorporate in the word-shapes of the enriched text each said respective group of phonetic markers thus determined as corresponding to a specific occurrence in said enriched text of an identified non-homophonous homonym.

89. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 88, wherein said non-homophonous homonym resolver includes:

means adapted to display to the user word-shapes identified as non-homophonous homonyms in the sample together with their respective determined probable pronunciations, and adapted to enable user over-ride of at least one of the determined probable pronunciations.

90. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 77, wherein:

at least some of said visual clues in said processed texts are graphic signs selected from the categories of logographic and pictographic signs that are indicative of at least one of meaning and pronunciation of respective word-shapes in the sample.

91. (New) A text processor and display system according to claim 90, wherein:

the standard written text is logographic and said graphic signs are pictographic, at least some of said visual clues in said processed texts are graphic signs indicative of the meaning of respective word-shapes in the sample, and

said user operable selector means is adapted to display in sequence selected ones of said processed texts and of said sample in such a manner that one of said processed texts with more explicit visual clues is replaced by one of said processed texts with less explicit clues in such a manner that at least one of the graphic signs comprising said visual clues appears to morph towards the corresponding word-shape of the sample.

92. (New) A method for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of text written in a standard writing system of a human language, the method including the steps of:

generating a plurality of processed texts from a common sample of the text in the standard writing system in which each of said processed texts comprises a different version of said sample such that each of said processed texts comprises word-shapes that correspond in sequence with the word-shapes of the sample,

including in the word-shapes of each processed text visual clues, selected from phonetic, pictographic and logographic markers, to the identity of the respectively corresponding word-shapes in the sample, such that said processed texts differ from one another by the amount of said visual clues incorporated therein, and

enabling the user to selectively display for visual study the sample in the standard writing system and at least one of said processed texts.

93. (New) A method according to claim 92 wherein:

the standard form of the written human language of the sample is alphabetical,

the word-shapes of the sample are formed by sequences of alphabetical letters ordered in accordance with a standard spelling system of the natural human language, and

said visual clues are phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of word-shapes in the sample.

94. (New) A method according to claim 93, including the steps of:

extracting from an electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-base, in which data-base word-shapes of the language of the sample are correlated with groups of phonetic markers that indicate the pronunciation of word-shapes in said data-base, groups of extracted phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of respective word-shapes in the sample,

incorporating within the respective word-shapes of the sample said extracted groups of phonetic markers from the data-base to thereby generate at least one of said processed texts.

95. (New) A method according to claim 93 including the steps of:

extracting from an electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-base, in which data-base word-shapes of the language of the sample are correlated with groups of phonetic

markers that indicate the pronunciation of word-shapes in said data-base, groups of extracted phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of respective word-shapes in the sample,

generating an electronically readable enriched text incorporating said extracted phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of word-shapes in the sample,

generating each processed text by incorporating in the word-shapes thereof selected ones of said extracted phonetic markers from said enriched text.

96. (New) A method according to claim 95 wherein:

the step of generating each processed text is performed in such a manner that letters and spelling of the sample are retained in each processed text and that said phonetic markers are incorporated in each one of said processed texts by retaining the letters and spelling of the word-shapes of the sample but varying the appearance of the letters of the word-shapes of the sample.

97. (New) A method according to claim 96 including the step of:

varying the appearance of the letters of the word-shapes of the sample by selecting letter variants from the following categories of variants:

- letter font,
- letter colour,
- letter shape, including slant, orientation and rotation,
- type and quality of lines making letters,
- use of serifs,
- hollow-print letters shown in outline only,
- solid-filled letters,
- diacritical marks,
- visual pulsing and flashing letters.

98. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein:

said visual clues in at least one of said processed texts are incorporated in word-shapes of at least one of the processed texts by the use of one of the following: a spelling system that differs from that used by the standard writing system of the language and letters that differ from those used by the standard writing system of the language, and letters accompanied by diacritical marks which are not used with those letters in the standard writing system of the language, and wherein

at least one other of said processed texts substantially preserves the word-shapes, letters and spelling of the sample therein,

and wherein the visual clues incorporated within at least one other of said processed texts comprise visual variants of the letters of the word-shapes of the sample.

99. (New) A method according to claim 94 with the additional first step of:

submitting the sample to a reversion homonym filter so as to identify and tag word-shapes of the sample that are distinct in the standard writing system of the language, but that become homonyms in at least one of the processed texts, and to thereby generate a tagged sample that has been resolved with respect to reversion homonyms,

using said tagged sample to generate at least one of said processed texts,

said tagged word-shapes of the tagged sample being thereby automatically re-convertible without uncertainty from at least one of said processed texts to their original word-shapes in the standard writing system of the language.

100. (New) A method according to claim 95 in which the sample is coherent and of sufficient length to allow pronunciations of non-homophonous homonyms therein to be determined, the method including the following steps:

submitting the sample to a non-homophonous homonym filter so as to identify and tag word-shapes that are non-homophonous homonyms in the sample and to thereby generate a tagged sample,

submitting said tagged sample to a non-homophonous homonym resolver to determine the probable pronunciation of each of said tagged word-shapes identified in the tagged sample and, thus, to identify the respective group of phonetic markers in said data-base corresponding

to each of said tagged word-shapes, and to thereby generate a resolved text that is resolved with respect to non-homophonous homonyms, and

employing said resolved text to generate said enriched text.

101. (New) A method according to claim 99, including the steps of:

displaying the tagged word-shapes of the sample together with a plurality of groups of phonetic markers corresponding to each said tagged word-shape for user inspection and selection,

enabling the user to select one of said plurality of groups of phonetic markers for each tagged word-shape, and

incorporating each selected group of phonetic markers for each displayed tagged word-shape in said resolved text.

102. (New) A method according to claim 99 including the steps of:

transmitting the resolved text to a second user,

enabling said second user to receive said resolved text, and

enabling said second user to subject the received resolved text to a re-conversion homonym filter so as to re-convert said received resolved text into the standard writing system of the language.

103. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein at least some of said visual clues in said processed texts are graphic signs selected from the categories of logographic and pictographic signs that are pictorially indicative of the meaning of respective word-shapes in the sample such that said signs in one of said processed texts are more pictorially explicit than in another of said processed texts, the method including the steps of:

enabling the user to display in sequence said one processed text, said another processed text and the sample so that the signs in said one and said another processed text appear to morph from the more explicit through the less explicit into respective word-shapes of the sample in the standard writing system of the language.

104. (New) A method according to claim 93, including the steps of:

extracting from an electronically readable pronouncing-dictionary data-base, in which data-base word-shapes of the language of the sample are correlated with respective groups of phonetic markers, all groups of phonetic markers correlated with word-shapes of the sample,

incorporating within each word-shape of the sample the group of phonetic markers correlated therewith to thereby generate a first one of said processed texts, and

incorporating within each word-shape of the sample a sub-group of phonetic markers correlated therewith to thereby generate a second one of said processed texts, such that said second one of said processed texts thereby incorporates fewer phonetic markers than said first one of said processed texts.